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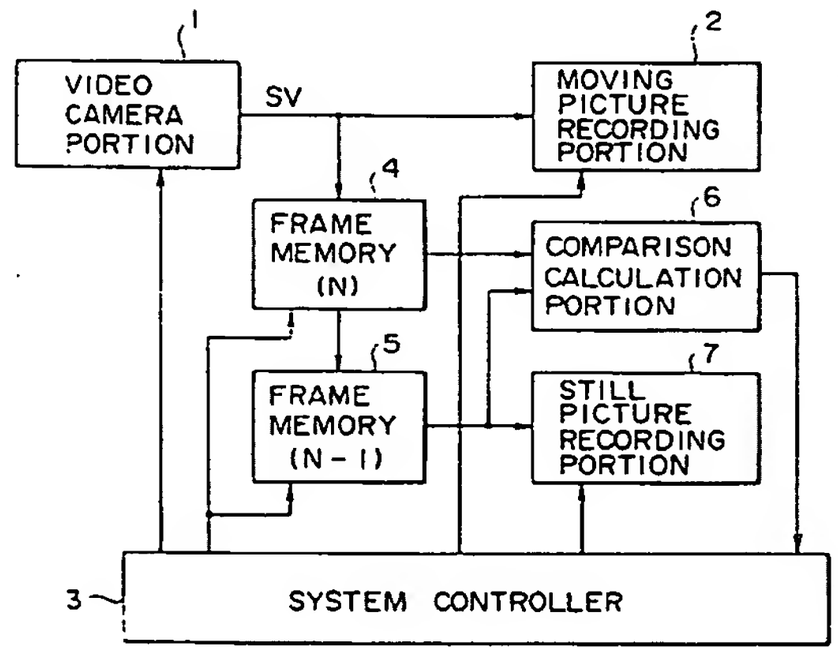
(54) Recording image data.

(57) A video signal from a camera portion (1) is supplied as moving picture data to a moving picture recording portion (2) where the video signal is recorded with a time code attached thereto. The video signal from the camera portion (1) is also supplied to a series circuit of frame memories (4, 5). The video signal is read from the memories (4, 5) every frame interval and supplied to a comparison calculation portion (6) in which a change in scene is detected by comparison calculation (judgment of existence of correlation) of video signals having a time difference of one frame therebetween, and the change in scene detection information is supplied to a controller (3). When a change in scene is detected, a one-frame portion of the video signal is read from memory under the control of the controller (3) and the read signal is supplied to and recorded by a still picture recording portion (7). The one-frame portion of video signal is recorded together with a time code which is attached to the one-frame portion of video signal when it is recorded by the moving picture recording portion (2).



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This invention relates to apparatus for recording image data.

In the field of processing, editing and the like, of a moving picture, it is the practice to manage the address of the image with a time code. For example, in editing, the time code is used as information for switching image materials. However, the contents of each image material separated by the time code are judged in dependence on the memory and the like of the editor.

In the above described field, it has recently been proposed to use a graphical user interface (GUI) of a computer to display representative images of cuts in reduced size as icons, thereby to help the editor comprehend the contents by intuition. There has further been proposed a method in which, when moving pictures are taken in a work station, not only representative images of cuts are displayed in reduced size, but also lengths of the cuts and movements between them are visually expressed (refer to the preprint No. 7 of Image Electronics Association Annual Conference, 1992, pp. 41 to 44.)

However, in order to display representative images of cuts in reduced size as described above, there arise the problems that it becomes necessary to carry out such processes as inputting image data from a video cassette recorder or the like to the computer, visually confirming breaks between the cuts aided by the computer, and storing data of representative images of the cuts into memory, and such processing takes a length of time virtually the same as that required for the image pickup.

According to one aspect of the invention there is provided apparatus for recording image data, the apparatus comprising:

first recording means for recording a video signal as moving picture data together with address information;

means for detecting a change in scene from an interframe or interfield correlation of said video signal; and

second recording means for recording, when a said change in scene is detected by said detecting means, a one-screen portion of said video signal, as still picture data, together with said address information corresponding thereto.

Such an apparatus facilitates editing and searching.

Embodiments of the invention can provide image data recording apparatus which is capable, while picking up images, of automatically recording representative image data of each cut together with address information.

According to another aspect of the invention there is provided an apparatus for recording image data, which apparatus comprises first recording means for recording a video signal output from a video camera as moving picture data together with address information, comparison calculation means for detecting a change in scene according to an interframe or interfield correlation of the video signal, and second recording means for recording, when a change in scene is detected by the comparison calculation means, a one-screen portion of the video signal, as still picture data, together with the address information corresponding thereto.

In a preferred embodiment of the invention described in detail below, during image pickup in which a video signal output from a video camera (1) is recorded as moving picture data by a first recording means (2), if a change in scene is detected by a comparison calculation means (6), a one-screen portion of the video signal output from the video camera (1) is recorded as still picture data by a second recording means (7). Accordingly, the need for extracting a representative image of each cut and recording the same after the image pickup has been completed can be eliminated, and the representative image of each cut can be displayed immediately after the image pickup.

Further, since a one-screen portion of a video signal is recorded as still picture data together with corresponding address information by the second recording means (7), the position on a recording medium where the moving picture data corresponding to specific still picture data is recorded can be easily identified according to the address information recorded together with the still picture data.

The invention will now be further described, by way of illustrative and non-limiting example, with reference to the accompanying drawing, the sole figure of which is a block diagram of an image recording apparatus according to an embodiment of the invention.

The drawing shows an image recording apparatus comprising a video camera portion 1, operations of which are controlled by a system controller 3. A video signal VS output from the video camera portion 1 is supplied as moving picture data to a moving picture recording portion 2. The moving picture recording portion 2 is formed for example of a moving picture recording and reproducing apparatus, such as a video tape recorder and a magneto-optical disk apparatus. Operations of the moving picture recording portion 2 are controlled by the controller 3 and the video signal VS together with a time code as address information is recorded on a recording medium such as a tape and a disk.

The video signal VS output from the video camera portion 1 is supplied to frame memories 4 and 5. Write and read operations on these memories 4 and 5 are controlled by the controller 3. In the present case, a video signal of consecutive two frames is written in the memories 4 and 5 and the contents in the memories are updated every frame interval.

The video signal is read from the memories 4 and 5 every frame interval and supplied to a comparison calculation portion 6. The video signals read from the

memories 4 and 5 having a time difference of one frame therebetween are subjected to comparison calculation in the comparison calculation portion 6 and, thereby, a change in scene is detected. More specifically, existence of a correlation between two consecutive frames is judged through the comparison calculation, and when there exists no correlation, it is determined that there has been a change in scene. As one of the methods of judging existence of a correlation, there is such a one as to divide each screen into blocks and make histograms of chromaticity for each block, and compare the histograms of the frames by a chi-square test to thereby judge the existence of a correlation (refer to the preprint of the 40th (the first half of the second year of Heisei (1990)) National Conference of the Information Processing Association, pp. 642 - 643).

The information of detected change in scene output from the comparison calculation portion 6 is supplied to the controller 3. When the information of detected change in scene indicates a change in scene, a one-frame portion of video signal (the video signal for the last cut) is read from the memory 5 under the control of the controller 3 and supplied as still picture data to a still picture recording portion 7 to be recorded thereby. The still picture recording portion 7 is formed of a recording and reproducing device of for example an IC card memory, a disk, and the like. When a one-frame portion of the video signal is recorded by the still picture recording portion 7, the time code, as address information, which is attached to the one-frame video signal when it is recorded by the moving picture recording portion 2, is also recorded.

Incidentally, it is not necessary for the still picture recording portion 7 to write all of the data of the one-frame video signal. For example, in such a case where the image size of the still picture, when it is displayed, is arranged to be smaller than the image size of the moving picture, the data can be recorded with its quantity reduced by taking average values for blocks. Thereby, the storage capacity of the IC card can be saved and, in such case, the storage capacity of the memories 4 and 5 themselves can also be made smaller.

In the present example, every time a change in scene is produced in the video signal VS, a change in scene is detected in the comparison calculation portion 6 and a one-frame portion of video signal is read from the memory 5 and recorded as still-picture data by the still picture recording portion 7. Accordingly, it has become unnecessary in this example to carry out the processes of extracting a representative image of each cut by reproducing image data after completing an image pickup and to record still-picture data as was previously practiced in the art, but the representative image of each cut can be displayed immediately after an image pickup.

When a one-frame portion of video signal is recorded as still picture data by the still picture recording portion 7, it is recorded together with the time code, which is given to the one-frame portion of video signal when it is recorded by the moving picture recording portion 2, and, therefore, the position on the recording medium in which the moving picture data corresponding to the still picture data is recorded can be easily identified according to the time code recorded with the still picture data.

Since, in the above described embodiment, the one-frame portion of video signal as still picture data is read from the memory 5, it becomes the last video signal of each cut, but it may be that of the first video signal of each cut, that of both the first and the last video signals of each cut, that of an intermediate video signal of each cut, or the like. When a one-frame portion of video signal is that read from the memory 4, the first video signal of each cut can be used as the still picture data.

Although, in the above described embodiment, the judgment of existence of a correlation between video signals is performed in the comparison calculation portion 6 using video signals having a time difference of one frame therebetween, it may also be practiced, by having field memories provided instead of the frame memories 4 and 5, to allow the comparison calculation portion 6 to perform comparison calculation (judgment of existence of correlation) of video signals having a time difference of one field therebetween to thereby detect a change in scene. In such case, the still picture data recorded by the still picture recording portion 7 becomes a one-field portion of video signal.

Although, in the above embodiment, the case where the recording medium recording still picture data in the still picture recording portion 7 is separate from the recording medium for recording the moving picture data in the moving picture recording portion 2 is described, it may be arranged such that the still picture data is recorded in a specific position on the recording medium for recording the moving picture data. In such case, for example the moving picture recording portion 2 and the still picture recording portion 7 are constituted by a disk recording and reproducing device and the moving picture data and the still picture data are recorded in parallel with a plurality of heads. As another way, it may be arranged, by constituting the still picture recording portion 7 of a temporary storage portion, such that plural picture screens of still picture data are read from the still picture recording portion 7 and recorded en bloc in a specific position on the recording medium of the moving picture data.

By recording the still picture data in a specific position on the recording medium for recording moving picture data as described above, the representative image of each cut can be displayed by accessing

the specific position on the recording medium after an image pickup, and the representative image can be utilized as an icon visually displaying the contents and, at the same time, the position where each cut is recorded can be easily identified according to the time code recorded together.

Although an arrangement integrated with a camera, i.e. an arrangement in which the video camera portion 1, moving picture recording portion 2, and still picture recording portion 7 are integrated, is shown in the above described embodiment, the invention can be equally applied to the case where a video camera portion 1 and the recording portions 2 and 7 are arranged in separate bodies.

With the apparatus described above, during the image pickup in which a video signal output from a video camera is recorded as moving picture data by a first recording means, a one-screen portion of the video signal output from the video camera is recorded as still picture data by a second recording means when a change in scene is detected by a comparison calculation means and, hence, the need for carrying out the process to extract the representative image of each cut after an image pickup can be eliminated. Therefore, the meritorious effect can be obtained that a representative image of each cut can be displayed immediately after an image pickup.

Further, since aone-screen portion of video signal is recorded as still picture data by the second recording means together with corresponding address information, the meritorious effect can be obtained that the position on the recording medium in which moving picture data corresponding to specific still picture data is recorded can be easily identified according to the address information recorded together with the still picture data.

Claims

1. Apparatus for recording image data, the apparatus comprising:

   first recording means (2) for recording a video signal as moving picture data together with address information;

   means (6) for detecting a change in scene from an interframe or interfield correlation of said video signal; and

   second recording means (7) for recording, when a said change in scene is detected by said detecting means (6), a one-screen portion of said video signal, as still picture data, together with said address information corresponding thereto.

2. Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said one-screen portion of video signal recorded as still picture data is at least one of the first and last video signals of each cut picked up by a video camera.

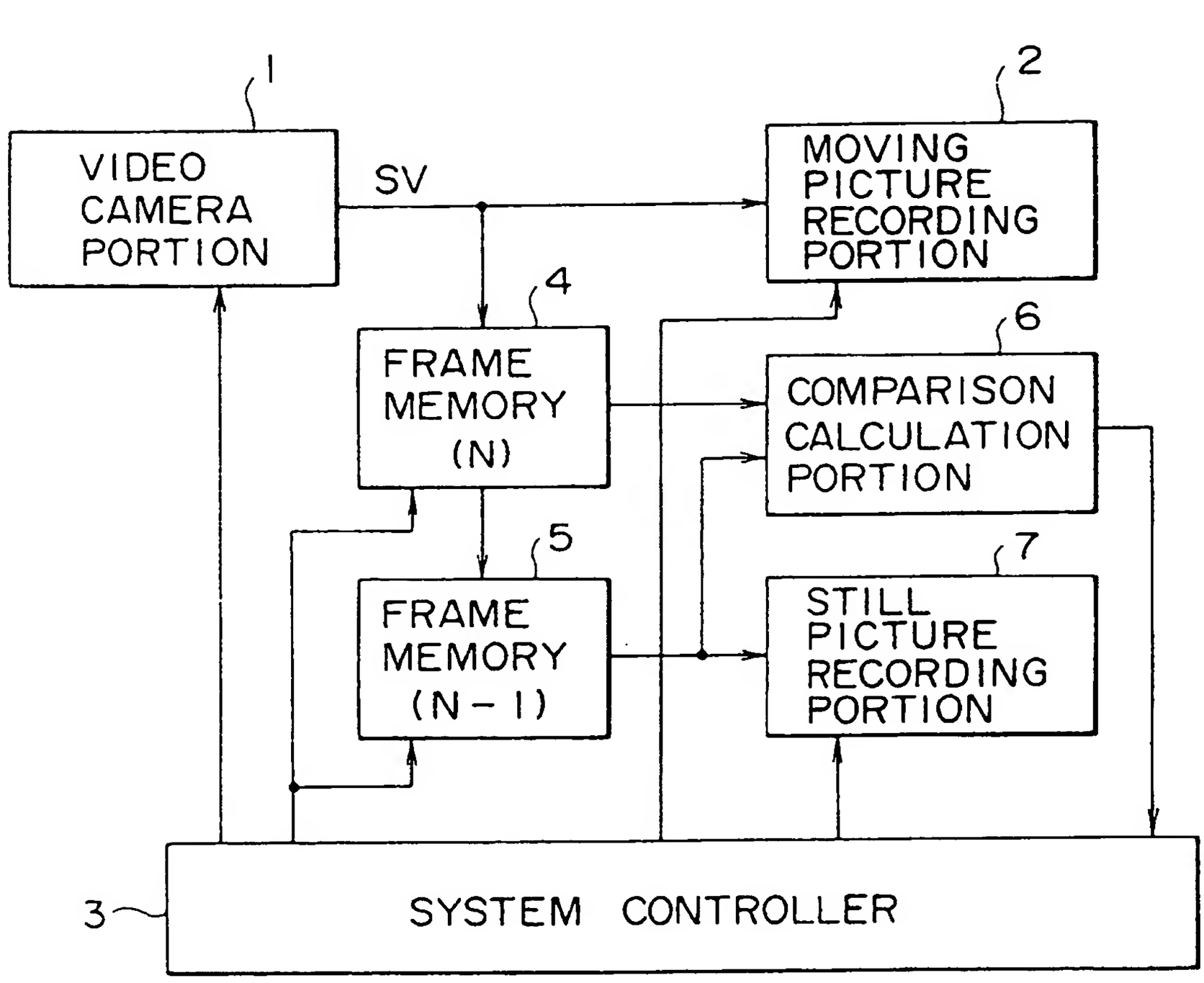
3. Apparatus according to claim 1 or claim 2, comprising means for decreasing the data quantity of said still picture data recorded by said second recording means (7), thereby to make the size of the image of the still picture smaller than the size of the image of the moving picture.

4. Apparatus according to claim 1, claim 2 or claim 3, comprising means for recording said still picture data in a specific position on a recording medium for recording said moving picture data.

5. Apparatus according to claim 1, claim 2 or claim 3, which is operative to record said moving picture data and said still picture data on separate recording media.

6. Apparatus according to claim 5, which is operative to record said moving picture data and said still picture data on separate recording media disposed within the same housing.

7. Apparatus according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein a video camera (1) and said first and second recording means (2, 7) are formed integrally.


1
VIDEO CAMERA PORTION
SV
2
MOVING PICTURE RECORDING PORTION
4
FRAME MEMORY (N)
6
COMPARISON CALCULATION PORTION
5
FRAME MEMORY (N-1)
7
STILL PICTURE RECORDING PORTION
3
SYSTEM CONTROLLER